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March 19, 2004

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Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re:

U.S. Utility Patent Application

Application No. 09/769,420; Filed: January 26, 2001

For: Substituted Nicotinamides and Analogs as Activators of Caspases and

Inducers of Apoptosis and the Use Thereof

Inventors:

Cai et al.

Our Ref:

1735.0440001

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

- 1. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116; and
- 2. One (1) postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents March 19, 2004 Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Robert A. Schwartzman, Ph.D.

Agent for Applicants Registration No. 50,211

RAS/law Enclosures

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